

May 29, 2008

Ms. Delores Brown
Chief, Office of Environmental Compliance
Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

Dear Ms. Brown,

I am a resident of Clarksburg. My husband of 34 years is a third generation farmer in the area. He farms with his brother and cousin. Currently, they farm approximately 3,500 acres located in three different counties, Yolo, Sacramento, and Solano. The number of acres they farm fluctuates from year to year depending upon the leases they are able to negotiate over time. Their operation employs around thirty five people, all of whom live year round in various homes around the area. This scenario repeats itself all throughout the north Delta region. Farmers, ranchers, and many other people live in rural areas around the districts as well.

My comments center on the environmental impact of moving all of these people out of their homes. It has been stated by members of your committee and in writing that a ring levee would be built around the towns up and down the Delta. By doing so, you create a situation where the towns will eventually die. The schools, which in many cases are the centerpiece of these Delta towns, will be fatally impacted by such a move. As you well know, schools receive money based on Average Daily Attendance (ADA), and with a drastic cut in students, the schools would cease to exist.

Many of the residents in the Delta towns are school teachers, aides, custodians, secretaries, and other employees of the schools. They would need to move away from the towns in order to make a living. Many of the residents are also employed by various farming related businesses throughout the region. From an environmental standpoint, you are causing yet another area in these currently thriving towns to dry up and cease to exist. Homes would be vacated with no one desiring to purchase them under such circumstances. Blight and crime, which is currently minimal to non-existent, would increase.

Thank you for taking my comments under consideration. Please recognize that the American farmer and its related agro-economic and human impact is important to protect.

Sincerely,
Kathy Hunn
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